

SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
THE YEAR 1902.

JOHN HAMILTON, M.D.

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SWADLINCOTE
DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report

FOR 1902.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I beg leave to submit my Annual Report for 1902, which is the 26th I have made for the Swadlincote Urban District, and the ninth since the amalgamation with the Gresley and Newhall Wards.

The estimated population of the District up to the middle of last year was 18,450. The number of deaths in the district was 292, viz.: 148 males and 144 females, giving a death-rate

for the year of 15.82. Fourteen deaths of persons belonging to the district but whose deaths took place outside brings the total deaths up to 306, giving a total death-rate of 16.5 per 1,000.

Death-rate for 1898	...	16.5	} per 1,000
„ „ 1899	...	15.0	
„ „ 1900	...	13.2	
„ „ 1901	...	14.01	

The total number of deaths from a zymotic cause was 52, giving a death-rate per 1,000 of 2.8. The deaths from notifiable zymotic causes were 292, giving a death-rate per 1,000 of 1.57.

The death-rate from zymotic causes was in

1898	...	3.12	} per 1,000.
1899	...	2.23	
1900	...	2.49	
1901	...	2.87	

The total number of births registered was 664, viz. : 317 males and 347 females. The birth-rate for the year was 35.98 per 1,000 as compared with

1898	...	37.20	} per 1,000
1899	...	36.94	
1900	...	36.47	
1901	...	36.20	

This equals a nett increase during the year of 169 males and 203 females.

COMPARATIVE TABLE as required by the Local Government Board.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents register'd in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Num-ber.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1893	14,670	548	37.35	99	180.65	246	16.7				246	16.7
1894	15,080	596	39.32	80	134.22	222	14.7				222	14.7
1895	15,530	610	39.27	81	132.8	199	12.8				199	12.8
1896	15,990	584	36.52	72	123.28	198	12.3				198	12.3
1897	16,470	566	34.30	93	164.31	224	13.6				224	13.6
1898	16,960	631	37.30	106	167.98	281	16.5				281	16.5
1899	17,460	645	36.94	97	150.38	262	15.0				262	15.0
1900	17,602	642	36.47	88	137.07	233	13.2				233	13.2
1901	18,117	656	36.20	82	125.0	254	14.01			8	254	14.01
Averages for years 1893-1901	16,431	612	37.24	88	144.60	235	14.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	235	14.3
1902	18,450	664	35.98	94	141.56	292	15.82	Nil	Nil	14	306	16.5

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums.

The mortality under one year equals a death-rate of 141.56 per 1,000 of births registered as compared with that of

1898	...	164.31	} per 1,000 of Births registered.
1899	...	150.38	
1900	...	137.07	
1901	...	125.01	

The death-rate from 65 years and upwards was 2.7 per 1,000 as compared with

1898	...	1.89	} per 1,000
1899	...	1.94	
1900	...	2.49	
1901	...	2.70	

The following Table gives the details of the Mortality in the District of Swadlincote during 1902.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Measles...	19	5	14	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	5	0	2	2	1	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	18	11	7	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	5	0	5	0	0	0	0
Croup ...	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Diarrhœa ...	5	4	0	1	0	0	0
Enteritis ...	7	4	3	0	0	0	0
Phthisis ...	13	1	0	0	3	8	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	9	0	4	3	0	2	0
Cancer, malignant disease	12	0	0	0	0	8	4
Bronchitis ...	40	22	8	0	0	5	5
Pneumonia ...	16	3	6	0	2	4	1
Pleurisy ...	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
Venereal Diseases ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Premature Birth ...	7	7	0	0	0	0	0
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Heart Diseases ...	21	0	0	2	1	11	7
Accidents ...	12	1	1	3	1	4	2
All other causes ...	85	35	11	1	2	16	30
All causes ...	292	94	63	13	10	61	51

The second part of my Report in the following Table deals with infectious diseases notified during the year. From this table it will be seen that 216 cases were reported as compared with 219 in the previous year. They are as follows:—

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Small Pox ...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Diphtheria ...	20	0	14	3	1	2	0
Membranous Croup ...	7	0	5	2	0	0	0
Erysipelas ...	18	0	0	1	7	9	1
Scarlet Fever ...	160	3	62	64	28	3	0
Enteric Fever ...	8	0	1	2	3	2	0
Puerperal Fever ...	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
	216	3	82	72	39	19	1

Small Pox.

One case unfortunately proving fatal from a secondary cause—pneumonia—occurred towards the end of the year. The disease no doubt was imported from Sheffield, where the patient had been at work up till within a few days of his coming to this district. As you are aware from my previous reports every step was taken to prevent the further spread of the disease. The patient was immediately on its notification removed to the Small Pox Hospital, and those who were in the house from which he was removed were re-vaccinated and kept under strict quarantine for more than a fortnight, with the happy result that no other case occurred. In connection with this matter I think it would be well for the Council to join with one or two of the neighbouring authorities in erecting a more suitable hospital than we have at present; the accommodation for the attendants and nurses at the present place

being very poor. The suggestions made by the County Medical Officer of Health which I embodied in my last monthly report should be in the meantime carried out.

Scarlet Fever. One hundred and sixty cases were notified to me during the year. They were nearly all of a mild type. Only five deaths were reported from this cause. As during the previous year the disease did not at any time assume an epidemic form, cases occurring throughout each month of the year. No reasonable cause could be assigned for the continuance of the disease in the district, milk which has frequently been assigned as a cause being in this case innocent. As I have before pointed out the very benign type of the disease is often a cause of its greater spread through its being unrecognised by the parents in many instances. Every means at the disposal of the Sanitary Inspector was taken to combat the spread of the disease, but as I have time after time mentioned no really efficient means of stamping out this or any other epidemic disease will be of much value until the authority sees fit to erect a contagious diseases' hospital in the district, or joining with one or other of the adjacent authorities in so doing.

Typhoid Fever. In this disease there has been a more marked immunity than for many years past. Whether this is due in part to the increased rainfall during the year is a question which might I think be fairly answered in the affirmative. There were but eight cases reported to me during the year with one death. After very careful enquiry I was unable to fix a cause in any of the cases.

Erysipelas. Eighteen cases were notified during the year.

Measles

Became very prevalent, especially towards the end of the year. I did not consider it advisable to recommend the closure of the schools. The closure during the autumn holiday seemed to have no influence upon the diminution of the spread of the disease. Notices were freely issued warning parents against sending children to school from infected houses, and in every instance that came under our notice the houses were freely supplied with disinfectants, and in some cases were thoroughly fumigated by your Inspector. Until it becomes a notifiable disease it will be difficult to contend with its spread, and the Council would be wise in including it under the diseases mentioned in the Notification Act.

Whooping
Cough.

This disease was very prevalent and eighteen deaths were reported from this cause. The difficulty or almost utter impossibility of isolation in these cases will at all times militate against the prevention of the spread of the disease.

Bronchitis,
Pneumonia and
Pleurisy.

Fifty-nine deaths occurred from these causes, the majority occurring in children under five years. Possibly neglected cases of Measles have helped to make this death-rate so large.

Phthisis and
other
Tubercular
Diseases.

Twenty-two cases of deaths from these causes were reported. I am afraid the circulars of the "National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other Forms of Tuberculosis" which were widely distributed have fallen on stony ground, one application only, having been received for the disinfection of the premises occupied by the deceased.

Cancer.

Twelve deaths occurred from cancer and other malignant disease of a similar nature. I think there can be little doubt that "increased means of diagnosis" will not account for the largely increasing number of cases observed.

- Diarrhoea and Enteritis.** Twelve deaths were reported from these causes, eleven of which occurred in children under five years. The disease has been much less prevalent than in former years, the meteorological conditions—low temperature and abundant rainfall—may, as in the case of typhoid, have had a determining influence.
- Puerperal Fever.** Two cases were notified to me, but no death occurred.
- Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.** Twenty-seven cases were reported to me during the year with five deaths. The provision of antitoxin by the Council in those cases in which the patients were unable to provide it has been the means of saving not a few lives.
- Slaughter-houses and Food Establishments.** In these instances a careful supervision has been kept over their sanitary condition, and I am glad to say that in the district they are in a satisfactory state—of course it would be a desideratum if the Council would provide a public slaughter-house for the district.
- Workshops.** As will be seen 235 inspections have been made, and the general condition throughout the district is satisfactory.
- House Accommodation.** Five cases of overcrowding were reported to me during the year, and the necessary steps were taken to abate the nuisance. I am glad to be able to report that the working classes in the neighbourhood have every opportunity of obtaining houses of a good class at a fairly low rental. It will be seen from Table I. that the average number of persons per house is lower than at any previous period, and the recommendation of the Local Government Board that “sufficiency of open spaces about houses” has been well observed.
- Water Supply.** The water supply has been satisfactory. The Council’s endeavour to augment the increase is a step in the right direction.

Sewerage and
Drainage.

The sewerage system is, I am glad to say, working fairly satisfactory, and the scavenging of the district has been carried out efficiently. The recommendation of mine so frequently made that the privy system should be converted into a water-borne system has not received that attention which the question deserves.

Infectious
Diseases
Hospital.

As referred to above in my remarks on small pox and scarlet fever it will be noticed that we are still without this essential aid to the combating of epidemic disease, and considering the number of deaths that have occurred from these diseases, it is, I consider, somewhat of a slur upon our local government that provision has not been made in this connection before now. I would ask the Council to consider how we should have fared in case there had been no means of isolation—such as it is—when the case of small pox occurred. In all probability it would have become epidemic.

Inspection.

I have made my usual periodic and systematic inspection of the district, including cowsheds and dairies, and have found them in a satisfactory condition; this likewise applies to bakehouses. I have by monthly reports and otherwise informed you as to the health of the district. No case of diseased meat or fish was offered for sale. No occasion arose to take proceedings under the Adulteration of Foods Act or in the matter of offensive trades.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN HAMILTON.

TABLE A.

Summary of SANITARY WORK done in the
Inspector of Nuisances Department during the year
1902, in the Urban Sanitary District of Swadlincote.

DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCE.				Informal Notices served by Inspector.		Legal Notices served by Authority.		Nuisances abated.
No disconnection of Waste Pipe	...	...	...	5	...	0	...	5
Defective Traps, Inlets, and Drains	...	...	...	10	...	0	...	10
Drains obstructed	...	...	...	12	...	0	...	12
Insanitary Privies and Ashpits	...	...	...	19	...	0	...	19
Insufficient Closet Accommodation...	...	...	...	22	...	20	...	22
Conversion of Privies into W.C.s	...	...	...	58	...	2	...	58
Defective Water Closets	...	...	...	6	...	0	...	6
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Overcrowding	...	...	...	5	...	5	...	5
				137		...	28	...
								137

All cases of Infectious Disease visited by Inspector, and
when necessary by Medical Officer. Disinfecting done by
Inspector. Material provided by Council. Regular inspection
of meat, fish, fruit, etc., exposed for sale. No Canal Boats.

DWELLING-HOUSES.—ESTIMATED NUMBER, 3,655.

Number inspected	...	...	391
Number of Houses repaired	...		20
Number of Infected Houses	...		128
Number disinfected	...	...	78

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number on Register	...	...	50
Number of Inspections	...	...	187

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	...	...	34
Number of Inspections	...	...	127

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Number on Register	...	...	32
Number of Inspections	...	...	104

WORKSHOPS.

Number on Register	...	...	60
Number of Inspections	...	...	235

Total Number of Inspections made ... 1,172

JABEZ HARVEY,

Inspector of Nuisances.

